

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2307

INFO AMCONGEN CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USUN NEW YORK 1066

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, BG

SUBJ: ADMIRAL KHAN RETURNS FROM UNGA TRIP: COMMENTS ON FARAKKA

1. REAR ADMIRAL KHAN, CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF AND DCMLA, TOLD THE PRESS UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN DACCA FROM THE UNGA SESSION THAT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE FARAKKA ISSUE WAS NOW "UNDERSTOOD BY EVERY COUNTRY" AND THAT EXCEPT FOR A FEW COUNTRIES "THERE HAD BEEN UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH IN THE WORLD FORUM."

2. IN HIS BRIEF REMARKS, KHAN ADMITTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO FRESH OFFER FROM INDIA FOR TALKS. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT "ANY MEANINGFUL PROPOSAL BY INDIA TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE THROUGH DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO BANGLADESH." HE ADDED THAT A SOLUTION HAD TO BE FOUND AND THAT "IT WILL ENTIRELY DEPEND ON HOW WE FIGHT OUR CAUSE."

3. ALTHOUGH ADMIRAL KHAN REFERRED TO HIS MEETINGS IN NEW YORK WITH SEVERAL "IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES",
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HE MADE NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH

AMERICAN OFFICIALS.

4. COMMENT: KHAN'S REMARKS WERE LOW-KEY, APPEARING MORE CONCILITATORY THAN BELLIGERENT. FURHTERMORE, HIS RETURN WAS NOT PLAYED BY THE PRESS AS A TRIUMPHAL ENTRY. THE DELEGATION'S ONE TANGIBLE SUCCESS, THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE FARAKKA ISSUE TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE, WAS ONLY MENTIONED IN PASSING. SEVERAL DIPLOMATIC AND MFA SOURCES INDICATE THAT BDG MAY BE PREPARING GROUND FOR AN "INTERIM" SETTLEMENT ACCEPTED LARGELY AT INDIAN TERMS FOR LOW SEASON INCREASE IN DELIVERIES AT FARAKKA. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED IN PAST WEEK OR SO THAT THE SHRILLNESS OF THE PRESS ON THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN TONED DOWN PERCEPTABLY ALTHOUGH NOT TURNED OFF COMPLETELY. ENAYETULLAH KHAN, WRITING OCTOBER 10 IN HOLIDAY, HOWEVER, MAINTAINED ATTACK ON INDIA AND EVEN ADDED A SECOND PIECE VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTING PAKISTAN ON THE KASHMIR ISSUE.
CHESLAW

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